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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE  
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P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,  
ON

Abdual K. Oren 9-11-03  
SIGNATURE DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Christian Lorenz  
Serial No. : 09/963,909  
Filing Date : September 26, 2001  
For : VEHICLE STEERING WHEEL  
Group Art Unit : 3682  
Examiner : Bradley J. VanPelt  
Attorney Docket No. : TRW (ASG) 5930

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
MAIL STOP AF

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OCT 21 2003  
GROUP 3682

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated May 7, 2003,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of  
claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.



16-17-03  
**Practitioner's Docket No. TRW(AS )-5930**

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Christian Lorenz  
Application No.: 09/963,909  
Filed: September 26, 2001  
For: VEHICLE STEERING WHEEL

Group No.: 3682  
Examiner: B.J. VanPelt

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**GROUP 3600**

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
(37 C.F.R. § 1.114)**

1. Applicant hereby requests continued examination, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, for the above-identified application.

**WARNING:** 35 U.S.C. 132(b) and § 1.114 provide for the continued examination of an application and not examination of a continuing application. Accordingly, the Office will not permit an applicant to obtain continued examination on the basis of claims that are independent and distinct from the claims previously claimed and examined. Notice of March 10, 2000, 65 Fed Reg 14865, at 14868.

**WARNING:** A continued examination request cannot be made if at least one office action under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 161 has not been mailed. The provisions of 37 CFR 1.114 also do not apply (1) to a provisional application, an application for a utility or plant patent filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a); (2) an international application filed under 35 U.S.C. 363 before June 8, 1995; (3) a patent under reexamination or (4) an application for a design patent. 37 CFR 1.114(d).

**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of times the fee for continued examination may be submitted. Notice of March 10, 2000, 65 Fed Reg 14865, at 14868.

**NOTE:** Unlike a continuation application, a continued examination request can utilize the mailing procedure of 37 CFR 1.8. See 37 CFR § 1.8(a)(2)(i)(A).

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §§1.8(a) and 1.10\***  
**(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;  
Express Mail certification is optional.)**

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

**MAILING**

- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231  
**37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**
- ☐ with sufficient postage as first class mail. ☐ as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(mandatory)

**37 C.F.R. § 1.10\***

**TRANSMISSION**

- ☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office, (703)

  
Signature

Dat : October 16, 2003

D b rah Denn  
(type or print name of person certifying)

10/20/2003 WABDELRI 00000152 09963909

(Request for Continued Examination (RCE) (37 C.F.R. § 1.114)[9-62]--Page 1 of 5)

01 FC:1801 770.00 OP

10/20/2003 WABDELRI 00000152 09963909

02 FC:1253 530.00 OP

**TIME REQUEST BEING MADE**

2. This request is being submitted (check appropriate item(s) below):

- i. ☒ Prior to abandonment of the application
- ii. ☐ Payment of the issue fee
  - ☐ Prior to payment of issue fee
  - ☐ Issue fee has been paid but a petition under § 1.313 has been granted
- iii. ☐ Prior to a decision on appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences that this Request for Continued Examination is being filed.

**NOTE:** *If such a notice is not sent to the Board then may refuse to vacate a decision rendered after the filing of the RCE but before recognition by the Office of the RCE request under § 1.114.*

- iv. ☐ Appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Federal Circuit under 35 U.S.C. 145 or ☐ Commencement of a civil action under 35 U.S.C. 146.
  - ☐ Prior to the filing of such appeal or commencement of civil action.
  - ☐ Such appeal or commencement of civil action has been terminated.

**ENCLOSURES**

3. Enclosed herewith is/are:

**WARNING:** *If reply to a final or non-final Office action under 35 U.S.C. 132 is outstanding, the submission must meet the reply requirements of § 1.111. 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(b).*

- ☐ An information disclosure (37 C.F.R. § 1.98)
  - ☐ Form PTO-1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 08B)
- ☒ An amendment (copy of unentered amendment dated **September 11, 2003**)
- ☐ New arguments
- ☐ New evidence in support of patentability
- ☐ Other:

**FEE REQUEST (37 C.F.R. §1.17(e))**

4. This application is on behalf of:

- ☐ Small entity (and status is still as small entity). . . . . \$385.00
- ☒ Other than a small entity . . . . . \$770.00

Continued Prosecution Request Fee **\$770.00**

## FEE FOR CLAIM

**NOTE:** "The fee for continued examination under § 1.114 (§1.17( )) does not include additional claims fee (cf. 1.53 (d)(3)(ii))." See Notice of March 10, 2000, 65 Fed Reg 14865, at 148868.

37 CFR 1.53(d)(3): "The filing fee for a continued prosecution application filed under this paragraph is:

(i) The basic filing fee as set forth in § 1.16; and

Any additional § 1.16 fee due based on the number of claims remaining in the application after entry of any amendment accompanying the request for an application under this paragraph and entry of any amendments under § 1.116 unentered in the prior application which applicant has requested to be entered in the continued prosecution application."

5. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)		(Col. 3)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		PRESENT EXTRA		ADDIT. FEE . OR RATE		ADDIT. FEE	
TOTAL	*12	MINUS	**	=	X\$ 9=	\$	X\$ 18=	\$	\$-0-
INDEP.	*2	MINUS	***	=	X\$ 43=	\$	X\$ 86=	\$	\$-0-
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIMS				=	X\$145=	\$	X\$290=	\$	
						OR		TOTAL	
						\$		ADDIT. FEE	\$-0-

\* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

\*\* If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

\*\*\* If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or Indep.) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

**WARNING** See 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

(complete (c) or (d), as applicable)

(c) ☒ No additional fee for claims is required.

**OR**

(d) ☐ Total additional fee for claims required \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## EXTENSION OF TIME

(If an extension of time is appropriate complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

6. The proceedings herein are for a patent application, and the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136(a) apply.

- (a) ☒ Applicant petitions for an extension of time, the fees for which are set out in 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1)-(4), for the total number of months checked below:

Extension for (months)	Fee for Other than Small Entity	Fee for Small Entity
<input type="checkbox"/> one month	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> two months	\$ 420.00	\$210.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> three months	\$ 950.00	\$475.00
<input type="checkbox"/> four months	\$1480.00	\$740.00

Fee **\$950.00**

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

- ☒ An extension for 2 month has already been secured, and the fee paid therefor of **\$420.00** is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ **530.00**

Or

- (b) ☐ Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this is a conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

### TOTAL FEE(S) DUE

**WARNING:** The fee for continued examination under § 1.114 may not be deferred. 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f).

7. The total fee(s) due is/are:

Continued Prosecution Fee (§1.17(e))	\$ <b><u>770.00</u></b>
Fee(s) for additional claims (if any) (§ 1.16(b)-(d))	\$ <b><u>0.00</u></b>
Extension of time fee (if any) (§ 1.17(a)(1)-(4))	\$ <b><u>530.00</u></b>
Total Fee(s) Due	\$ <b><u>1,300.00</u></b>

**PAYMENT F FEE( ) DUE**

8. Please pay the fee(s) for this continued examination application as follows:

☒ Check is attached for the sum of \$ 1,300.00

☐ Charge Account No. 20-0090 the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Charge Credit Card the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) attached)

Please charge any required additional fee(s) for § 1.17(e), § 1.16(b)-(d) and/or § 1.17(a)(1)-(4) to

☒ Account No. 20-0090.

☐ Credit Card (Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) attached).

**INVENTORSHIP**

NOTE: Any change of inventors must be via the procedure set forth in 37 CFR § 1.48. See Notice of March 10, 2000, 65 Fed Reg 14865, at 14868.

9. This application as amended names as inventors:

☒ the same inventors as previously designated for the claims.

☐ fewer than the inventors previously designated and a statement accompanies this request for the deletion of the name or names of the person or persons who are not inventors of the invention now being claimed.

☐ a person not named previously as an inventor and a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48 is/has separately: ☐ being filed ☐ been filed

Date: October 16, 2003

  
**SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER**

Reg. No. 20,127

Thomas L. Tarolli  
(type or print name of practitioner)

Tel. No. (216) 621-2234

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